

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02205 281518Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-07 /020 W  
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O R 281320Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
SECSTATE WASHDC 6216

UNCLAS LUSAKA 2205

FOR IOP/M

FOR IBS/PA, PASS IPS

STATE FOR AF/E AND AF/E

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: -  
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL EDITORIAL ON EAST-WEST ARMS SUPPLIES TO EGYPT,  
LIBYA, SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA.

THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL TODAY DECIDED TO AIR  
ITS VIEWS ON THE CONFLICTS IN NORTH AFRICA AND THE HORN OF AFRICA.

IN THE EDITORIAL, THE NEWSPAPER CONCLUDES THAT LIBYA, EGYPT,  
SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA, WITHOUT REALIZING IT, ARE "MERELY RESPONDING  
TO THE CALCULATED MACHINATIONS OF ONE SUPERPOWER, OR BOTH, WHO  
WANT TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR SPHERES OF INFLUENCE AT THE EXPENSE OF  
THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLES OF SOMALIA, ETHIOPIA, EGYPT AND LIBYA."

IT IS THE VIEW OF THE MAIL THAT IF THOSE ENGAGED IN THE  
FIGHTING WERE DOING SO TO LIBERATE "THEIR STOLEN LANDS", THEY SHOULD  
HAVE GONE ABOUT PRESSING THEIR DEMANDS THROUGH THE ORGANIZATION  
OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU).

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"THE RUSSIANS ARE IN THE GAME TO REDUCE AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN  
THIS PART OF AFRICA. AND THE AMERICANS HAVE AGREED TO BECOME  
WILLING ARMS SUPPLIERS TO THEIR FAVORED SIDE IN ORDER TO BEAT THE  
RUSSIANS AT THEIR GAME AND THEREBY REDUCE RUSSIAN INFLUENCE  
IN THIS PART OF AFRICA," EDITORIALIZES THE PAPER WHICH USUALLY  
REFLECTS GOVERNMENT OPINION.

"WHAT THE RUSSIAN WEAPONS DO TO EGYPT AND SOMALIA, THE RUSSIANS COULD NOT CARE LESS. WHAT AMERICAN WEAPONS DO TO LIBYA AND ETHIOPIA, THE AMERICANS DO NOT CARE," SAYS THE MAIL.

"AND ONE THING CERTAIN IS THAT IF THESE PEOPLE WERE LEFT ALONE BY THE SUPERPOWERS, THE THREATS NOW BEING MADE BY EITHER OF THE WARRING FACTIONS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN MADE. THE WAR NOISES WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN MADE," THE MAIL EDITORIAL ADDS.

THE MAIL NOTES THAT FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW, THE SOVIET UNION HAS MADE NO SECRET OF THE FACT THAT SHE HAS BEEN SUPPORTING LIBYA WHEN SHE LOST THE FRIENDSHIP OF EGYPT.

"AND IN WHAT HAS NOW BECOME KNOWN AS THE HORN OF AFRICA, IT HAD BEEN EXPECTED THAT SOMALIA WOULD HAVE TO BE FORCED TO LOOK TO THE AMERICANS FOR ARMS WHEN RUSSIA BEGAN TO BRING ETHIOPIA INTO HER ORBIT OF INFLUENCE," THE MAIL POINTS OUT.

THE EDITORIAL SAYS "THE RUSSIANS, TOGETHER WITH THEIR FRIENDS IN THE SOCIALIST CAMP, HAVE MOVED INTO ETHIOPIA WITH ALL MANNER OF MILITARY GEAR IN THE FORM OF AID IN A VERY BIG WAY," ADDING THAT WITH THEM ARE THE CUBANS TO TRAIN THE ETHIOPIANS IN THE USE OF THE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS FROM THE SOVIET UNION.

"SENSING THE VACUUM WHICH HAD BEEN CREATED BY THE HALF-HEARTED  
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LOVER'S ATTITUDE OF THE RUSSIANS TOWARDS SOMALIA, THE AMERICANS HAVE FINALLY MOVED IN WITH THE PROMISES TO SUPPLY SOMALIA WITH ALL THE WEAPONS SHE NEEDS TO DEFEND HERSELF FROM THE RUSSIAN WEAPONS IN ETHIOPIA," THE PAPER SAYS. ITEM USIS LUSAKA.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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